

House File 153 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 153

BY SALMON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the appointment of a director of public
2 policy events at each institution of higher education
3 governed by the state board of regents.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **262.100 Director of public policy**
2 **events — institutions of higher education.**

3 1. The board of regents shall direct each institution of
4 higher education to appoint a current employee to the position
5 of director of public policy events. The director shall report
6 to the office of general or university counsel, as appropriate,
7 at the institution.

8 2. The duties and responsibilities of the director shall
9 include all of the following:

10 *a.* Organizing, publicizing, and staging debates, group
11 forums, and individual lectures that address, from multiple,
12 divergent, and opposing perspectives, an extensive range
13 of public policy issues widely discussed and debated. The
14 director shall make a reasonable effort to organize a
15 substantial number of debates, group forums, and individual
16 lectures that fall within the parameters described in this
17 section.

18 *b.* Inviting speakers who hold a wide diversity of
19 perspectives, from within and outside the campus community, to
20 participate in public policy events, with particular attention
21 to inviting speakers from outside the institution who can ably
22 articulate perspectives on widely debated public policy issues
23 otherwise poorly represented on campus.

24 *c.* Providing, when funding is available, honoraria and
25 actual transportation and lodging expenses to speakers when the
26 speakers are from outside the campus community. The director
27 shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that funding is
28 available to host speakers holding opposing view points.

29 *d.* Maintaining a publicly accessible, current, searchable
30 calendar of public policy events open to the entire campus
31 community, on the institution's internet site. The director
32 shall make print copies of the calendar of public policy events
33 available to the campus community. The calendar of public
34 policy events shall include events organized by the director
35 and shall also include public policy events organized by other

1 offices, institutes, departments, programs, or organizations
 2 affiliated with the institution. The calendar of public
 3 policy events shall include the title of the event, the name
 4 and institutional affiliation of the speaker, and the sponsor
 5 of the event. The calendar of public policy events need not
 6 include an event sponsored by an entity that rents a facility
 7 under the control of the institution if the entity is not
 8 affiliated with the institution.

9 e. Publishing a document of the previous academic year's
 10 annual public policy event calendar for the institution,
 11 arranged chronologically, on the institution's internet
 12 site. The director shall make print copies of the document
 13 available to the public upon request and may collect a fee
 14 from the recipient totaling not more than the cost of printing
 15 and postage, and shall submit copies of the document to the
 16 institution's library for preservation and for public access.

17 f. Making publicly available a complete internet-accessible
 18 video record of every event organized pursuant to paragraph
 19 "a", and publishing each video on the institution's internet
 20 site within ten business days of the event recorded. Each
 21 video shall be accessible on the institution's internet site
 22 for not less than five consecutive years following the date of
 23 the event recorded. The videos shall also be provided to the
 24 institution's library for preservation and public access.

25 3. All events organized pursuant to subsection 2,
 26 paragraph "a", shall be open to the campus community and,
 27 unless restricting attendance by persons unaffiliated with the
 28 university is necessary to achieve a compelling governmental
 29 interest, to the general public.

30 4. For purposes of this section, "*campus community*" means
 31 the same as defined in section 261H.1.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill requires the state board of regents to direct

1 each of the universities it governs to appoint a director of
2 public policy events who shall be responsible for organizing,
3 publicizing, and staging debates, group forums, and individual
4 lectures that address, from multiple, divergent, and opposing
5 perspectives, an extensive range of public policy issues widely
6 discussed and debated.

7 At the university of Iowa, the director shall report to the
8 office of general counsel, while the directors at Iowa state
9 university and the university of northern Iowa shall report to
10 their institution's office of university counsel.

11 The director must make a reasonable effort to organize a
12 substantial number of such events, and to invite speakers who
13 hold a wide diversity of perspectives and can ably articulate
14 widely held perspectives on public policy issues otherwise
15 poorly represented on campus, and to pay the expenses, when
16 funding is available, of speakers from outside the campus
17 community. The director must make every reasonable effort to
18 ensure funding is available to host speakers with opposing view
19 points.

20 The director is responsible for maintaining a publicly
21 accessible, current, searchable calendar of public policy
22 events open to the entire campus community on the institution's
23 internet site, and must make print copies of the calendar
24 available to the campus community. The calendar shall also
25 include similar events organized by other entities affiliated
26 with the institution. The bill describes the details the
27 calendar must contain.

28 The director must also publish the previous academic year's
29 calendar on the institution's internet site, make print copies
30 available to the public upon request, and submit copies of the
31 calendar to the institution's library for preservation and for
32 public access. The director may collect a fee from anyone
33 requesting a copy of the document.

34 Similarly, the director must make publicly available a
35 complete internet-accessible video record of every event, and

1 organize and publish each such video on the institution's
2 internet site within 10 business days of the event recorded.
3 Each video must be accessible on the internet site for at least
4 five years and must be provided to the institution's library
5 for preservation and public access.

6 All events organized by the director must be open to
7 the campus community and, unless restricting attendance is
8 necessary to achieve a compelling governmental interest, to the
9 general public.

10 The bill defines "campus community".